

Sichuan University

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer Monday, September 19, 2011 4:00 p.m. Sichuan University, Chengdu, Shanghai

Knee-how.

Whoa-jow Janice Brewer, Governor of Arizona.

I'm pleased to bring a distinguished delegation of government and businesses representing Arizona to China -- and here to Phoenix's Sister City, Chengdu.

The purpose for our trip is to explore opportunities -- Opportunities to overcome challenges -- Opportunities to identify joint solutions.

The OUTCOMES of these opportunities hold great promise for both Arizona AND for China.

Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the United States.

In the past two decades rapid population growth has brought dramatic changes to our cities and rural areas, and – of course – they have given us new challenges.

I know such growth has occurred here in Sichuan in the last few years -- a result of China's "GO WEST" policy.

You are approaching challenges head-on – just as I am.

We are both promoting education -- attracting foreign investment -- and creating the quality jobs that will help retain a high-skilled labor force.

And, this will stop the flow of talent to richer provinces and other areas.

Chengdu is an important business center-- and has been since trade on the Silk Road began more than two-thousand years ago.

China is Arizona's third largest trading partner.

Exports increased more than 26-percent to ONE BILLION dollars in 2010.

And, at last count, more than 5,400 Arizona companies exported to China.

As the world economy recovers, it's more important than ever to boost trade among countries.

In the past eight years, the value of global trade in goods has grown by an average annual rate of twelve-percent – that's twice as fast as the global GDP.

Arizona is fast becoming a leader in the United States where global businesses excel.

We're focused on the best education through our universities like A-S-U.

We're taking steps to ensure our workforce remains large and skilled,

We have low payroll taxes,

We offer a strategic location,

AND we have *som*e of the most aggressive incentives to benefit high quality companies.

Intel recently made a significant investment of two-hundred million dollars in a factory in Chengdu.

In Arizona, Intel is investing over three-billion dollars for a new fabrication plant.

China's Suntech Power is an example of what's possible through joint efforts -- and the mutual benefits for both China and Arizona.

When I signed Arizona's Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Program into law, Suntech Power became one of the first companies to respond – expanding their global operations to the United States and specifically to Arizona.

As one of the world's largest solar cell manufacturers, Suntech has been important for Arizona.

Material suppliers follow these large module manufacturers – and it certainly helped draw additional companies and jobs to Arizona.

Solar jobs follow solar installations.

And, more than sixty-percent of industry jobs are created in sales, finance and installation.

It's estimated the solar industry employs about 15 to 30 people for every Mega-Watt of installed solar capacity. That's SIX to EIGHT times more than the traditional energy industry.

In the current economy, it's companies like Suntech that are creating jobs for people who are unemployed.

Suntech recently added a third shift - 30 employees - bringing the entire staff at the Arizona manufacturing site to over ONE HUNDRED workers.

Jared Waldron is this shift's new supervisor.

He worked for a glass manufacturer until he was laid off -- a result of the United States' recession and the impact that rippled across Arizona's construction sector.

Jared is working again -- able to support his family – and, he says it feels wonderful to be at Suntech -- a place that is growing.

We're creating opportunities so that good workers can earn a living and support their families.

I met with Dr. Shi of Suntech Power in Shanghai, and we discussed the successes happening in both China and Arizona.

I look forward to developing mutually beneficial business opportunities.

Arizona will be co-hosting an event with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of machinery and Electronic Products in November.

I look forward to much success for all participants.

As a result of my visit here, I will be taking back to Arizona a deep appreciation that our economies have a lot to offer each other and our business cooperation can prosper in a wide range of areas.

I appreciate this friendly reception today. It was an honor to be with you.

Thank you - Shay-shay.